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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2008

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Report Highlights:

Export prices declined slightly and domestic prices stabilized as Thai rice exporters are not expected to participate in the May 5 Philippines tender. Despite reports that the Commerce Minister will propose a domestic stock release, skepticism remains as market forces appear to be alleviating pressure on prices.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Apr. 28):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	1,180	-	-	-	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,195	1,125
WR 100 B	930	-	-	-	940	1,100	1,000	993	940
PB 5%	-	-	-	-	950	-	1,100	1,025	-
WR 5%	900	-	-	-	920	1,092	990	976	910
WR 10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 15%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 25%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A 1 SUP	780	-	-	-	780	-	850	803	785
A 1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters, Exchange rate: 31.4 baht/U.S.\$									

Market Tone

Exporters are more optimistic this week about the stabilization of domestic prices. Prices seem to be more stable as Thai exporters are unlikely to participate in the May 5 Philippines tender, which reportedly lined with conditions favoring Government-to-Government sales. Despite this, the Thai Government is unlikely to participate in the tender as intervention stocks are currently being held for domestic food security in the event rice prices become too high. Today, the Commerce Minister is planning to propose releasing a portion of the stocks domestically in 5-kilogram bags at prices 15-20 percent lower than current market prices. Despite reports of this announcement, skepticism remains as discussion of a domestic stock release has been mulled for over a month, and market forces appear to be alleviating pressure on domestic prices.

Meanwhile, export prices for premium white rice declined slightly, and were offered at around \$950 - 1,100/MT, as compared to \$1,300/MT in the previous week. Nevertheless, a sharp reduction in export prices is unlikely as exporters still have tight pending shipments lasting until June, including the deliveries of around 200,000 tons of white rice to the Philippines following the April 17 tender.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	%
MAR 9	190,883	181,464	1,691	799	111.7
MAR 16	193,216	182,550	1,884	914	106.2
MAR 23	204,056	190,906	2,088	1,014	105.8
MAR 30	238,638	206,698	2,326	1,122	107.4
APR 6	175,536	202,861	2,502	1,234	102.7
APR 13	157,439	193,917	2,659	1,359	95.6
APR 20	85,612	164,306	2,745	1,472	86.5
APR 27	169,952	147,135	2,915	1,608	81.3

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Apr. 21-27, 2008 totaled 169,952 tons, up 84,340 tons from the previous week, and up 22,817 tons from the four-week moving average of 147,135 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Apr. 27, 2008 totaled 2,914,978 tons, as compared with 1,608,304 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 2008, amounted to 3,254,946 tons, up 66.7 percent from 1,952,388 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Apr. 7-11, Apr. 14-18, and Apr. 21-25, 2008 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Apr. 7-11	Apr. 14-18	Apr. 21-25
Weekly sales	187,753	117,403	108,298
4 week sum	670,122	655,918	602,409
4 week mov. avg.	167,531	163,980	150,602
Total weekly sales	2,825,641	2,943,044	3,051,342

End of Report.